Many of the members of non-profit Kids Sending Smiles, founded and run by local elementary school girls, show off their banner, their Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Proclamation, and the scrapbook of the seventeen charitable events they have already organized in their two year existence.
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Inova Fair Oaks Hospital
Founding members of Kids Sending Smiles do a little reminiscing as they look over the scrapbook of their non-profit’s activities. From left: Laila Tucker, 9, Island Creek Elementary, Adaya Beard, 10, Lorton Station Elementary, Tatiana Joseph, 10, Lane Elementary, Alliyah Beard, 11, Lorton Station, Samantha Underwood, 10, Springfield Estates Elementary, Samantha Wenger, 10, Island Creek.

Kids Sending Smiles Around the World

Youth non-profit to hold 5K Run/Walk for Breast Cancer at Burke Lake Park.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

The Court of the 2013 Lee District Lady Fairfax was in session, but there were no royal ac-
tivities underway. Instead, 11-year-old
Samantha Underwood and her friends were busy reminiscing about past events and planning future ones for Kids Sending Smiles (KSS)—the charitable organization they established when a friend of Philip-
Dipany ancestry told Samantha about the conditions
and the poverty, especially among young girls, in the
native country of her family. “We thought about just
sending money,” said “Queen” Samantha, “but that
didn’t seem to mean the same as really getting in-
volved and doing something to help.” So Samantha
and a few of her elementary school friends got to-
gether, raised funds and collected donations and sent
them off to a transitional facility for girls moving
from homelessness. Doing this charitable work felt
so good, that Miss Underwood and company decided to
take their efforts even further. With the help of
their parents—in particular Mrs. Laurie
Underwood—Kids Sending Smiles (KSS) was
founded as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. “To bring hap-
iness to ourselves and others by helping those in
their parents—in particular Mrs. Laurie
Underwood—Kids Sending Smiles (KSS) was
founded as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. “To bring hap-
iness to ourselves and others by helping those in
need in the United States and around the world” is
organized. “You have to keep real
community efforts toward raising the $22,000 needed
to raise and train the specialized pooches.
The KSS collective have already pulled off 17 chari-
table projects in their short history. In addition to
the seizure dog projects, they have raised funds for
Hurricane Sandy victims, organized a winter cloth-
weight toward raising the $22,000 needed
to raise and train the specialized pooches.
The KSS collective have already pulled off 17 chari-
table projects in their short history. In addition to
the seizure dog projects, they have raised funds for
Hurricane Sandy victims, organized a winter cloth-
weight toward raising the $22,000 needed
for tornado victims in Oklahoma. No won-
der the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honored
the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honored
them with a special proclamation earlier this year.
Their 18th event is their most ambitious yet. On Sat-
urday, Oct. 19, they are holding a 5K Run/Walk for
Breast Cancer at Burke Lake Park. With the help of
sponsors like Metro Run and Walk, a store dedicated
to runners and walkers in Springfield, the girls say
they are ready. “There’s a lot to do,” admitted Ms.
Underwood, “but we’ve been working on this since
April. We got together to make the bags for the run-
ers this week and lots of people have helped to or-
ganize it and teach us all the things we need to know
to do this.”

THE EFFORTS of this group of community-spirited
youngsters can be further explored on their website
at www.kidssendingsmiles.org and on their Facebook
page. The children all hope to see your smiling face
at Burke Lake Park on Saturday, and at any of the
future charitable events they are even now manag-
ing to plan—in between school work,
Girl Scouts, soccer, household chores and just be-
ing kids.

Family Celebrates 50th Foster Puppy

What does the Fairfax County Animal Shelter do when it takes in an extremely young
animal, one too young to adopt out? It finds a foster family will-
ing to take on the responsibil-
ity of nurturing the sometimes
days-old animal until it is old
enough to be adopted perma-
nently.

Recently a long-time volun-
teer at the Fairfax County Ani-
mal Shelter, Teri Baker, of Fair-
sax, celebrated fostering her
foster puppy. The vast majority
of those puppies are American
Pit Bull Terriers — a breed sur-
rounded by controversy and
misinformation.

Baker noticed that many pit
bull puppies were coming in,
but few were being fostered.
She saw a need and stepped in
to fill it. And she says it evolved
from stepping in to meet a need
to something she and her hus-
band Doug Baker absolutely love
to do.

“There is a mythology that
they are more aggressive than
other dogs, that they bite more
than ‘normal’ dogs … they’re
just dogs … very smart dogs,”
said Baker. She acknowledges
that there are specific chal-
enges that they incur with pit
bull puppies as they working on
printing and bonding with the
dogs, “For example, we teach
the puppies never to put their
mouths on us.”

“It’s very satisfying to know
in a small way we have started
a lifetime of unconditional love
for the adopting family
and that’s what keeps us going.”

Teri Baker of Fairfax in the lobby of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in celebration of her
50th foster puppy.

Vivian Hammond, director of the Fairfax County Animal Shel-
ter praises Baker’s efforts and
commitment, “Volunteers are
the engine that drives the shel-
ter and helps us achieve our
mission. Without volunteers
we couldn’t do what we need
to do.”
Governor Bob McDonnell congratulated Fairfax County teacher Melissa A. Porfirio for her selection as Virginia’s 2014 Teacher of the Year. Porfirio teaches first grade at Crestwood Elementary School in Springfield. Her selection was announced Friday evening, Oct. 11, in Richmond.

“Melissa Porfirio epitomizes the tens of thousands of truly outstanding teachers in Virginia’s public schools who are dedicated to the success of their students,” Governor McDonnell said. “She is a leader whose positive influence extends well beyond the walls of Crestwood Elementary.”

Fellow Crestwood teachers and her principal describe Porfirio as the heart of the Crestwood community. She serves as a mentor to new teachers and has been featured in Fairfax County Public Schools’ training videos.

Porfirio was selected from the eight Virginia 2014 Regional Teachers of the Year announced in September. Porfirio and the other regional nominees were seated together at the annual Virginia Teacher of the Year banquet Friday evening when her selection was announced by Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright. “This is a group of dynamic and outstanding teachers,” Porfirio said. “I was so surprised when my name was called. It is such an honor to represent Virginia’s teachers.”

Porfirio will be the commonwealth’s nominee in the Council of Chief State School Officers’ National Teacher of the Year program. “Melissa will be a great ambassador for Virginia’s public schools and for the teaching profession,” Wright said.

A Fairfax County teacher for eight years, Porfirio earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from Catholic University and a master’s degree in education, curriculum and instruction from George Mason University. Prior to becoming a teacher, Porfirio was a social worker in North Carolina and Washington, D.C. and taught English in Seoul, South Korea.

Porfirio, 39, was selected as 2014 Virginia Teacher of the Year after being interviewed by a committee that included representatives of professional and educational associations, the Virginia business community and 2013 Virginia Teacher of the Year Kathryn B. Galford of Chesapeake.

The 2014 National Teacher of the Year will be announced next spring at a White House ceremony. Two previous Virginia teachers of the year—Mary V. Bicouvaris in 1989 and B. Philip Bigler in 1998—have gone on to become National Teachers of the Year.

As the 2014 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Porfirio received a $5,000 award and a commemorative ring from the Apple Federal Credit Union Education Foundation; a $2,500 award from Richmond law firm Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen; a classroom technology package from Smart Technologies ULC; a travel package from EF Education First; educational opportunities from several public and private colleges and universities; flowers from Strange’s Florist and Garden Centers; an engraved plaque from Bunkie Trinite Trophies, Inc.; a gift certificate from Crowne Plaza Hotel Richmond Downtown; a gift basket from C.F. Sauer Company; a gift from Blue Bell Creameries; and an engraved crystal apple.
State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean National Cemetery where the Korean War dead are buried. In August, Marsden and his wife, Julia, spent a week in South Korea as guests of the Government of the Republic of Korea. He was invited to discuss his sponsorship of the “East Sea” bill, and also to present a resolution from the Southern Legislative Conference encouraging trade development between the United States and Korea.

What’s in a Name?

Virginia legislators work with Korean American groups to push for “East Sea” in textbooks.

By Victoria Ross

Virginia’s gubernatorial candidates Ken Cuccinelli (R) and Terry McAuliffe (D) may be light years apart on most issues, but on one issue they’ve reached a consensus.

Last month, they both pledged support to Virginia’s growing population of Korean Americans to use the dual names of “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” to denote the body of water between Korea and Japan in Virginia’s textbooks. Koreans view the “Sea of Japan” as a legacy of Japanese colonial rule.

Currently, more than 2.5 million Korean-Americans reside in the U.S. and nearly 150,000 of them live in Virginia. “As governor, going forward, I will wholeheartedly support the effort to have our textbooks and other teaching materials reflect the concurrent names as we pursue education excellence in Virginia,” Cuccinelli wrote in a Sept. 16 letter to the Korean Community of Virginia.

McAuliffe wrote to the Korean Community of Virginia on Sept. 25.

“Heritage Bank and Bowman Colonial Rock, with face painting and fun activities geared towards children. Corporate sponsors include: Apple Federal Credit Union, Virginia’s textbooks only Sea of Japan, which Koreans view as historically inaccurate and a legacy of Japanese colonial rule.

From left—Jung Ki Un, chairman of Voice of Korean Americans (VOKA), State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), and Peter Kim, president of VOKA, display a petition to use the dual names of “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” to denote the body of water between Korea and Japan in Virginia’s textbooks. Currently, Virginia’s textbooks only use Sea of Japan, which Koreans view as historically inaccurate and a legacy of Japanese colonial rule.

Non-perishables Needed

Canned sweet potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, beans (pinto, kidney, black, etc.), chili, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, mashed potatoes, cereal, crackers, pasta, rice, mac & cheese, peanut butter, canned means.

Toiletries Needed

Needed toiletries can be cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, baby wipes, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap and deodorant.
OPINION

Don’t Let Negatives Keep You from Voting

Choices are stark; think about what principles should guide governance in Virginia for the next four years.

Every Virginia voter will have the option to cast a ballot for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and their member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

While much of the coverage and advertising at the top of the ticket has been negative in the extreme, it will still matter who is governor. Don’t turn up your nose, hold your nose if necessary, and go vote. You can vote on Nov. 5; most likely you can vote before that.

Voter Identification

Virginia’s existing voter ID requirements will change in July 2014. A law requiring photo identification at the polls was signed into law in May 2013. This new photo identification requirement will not take effect until July 1, 2014. The current law allows for the acceptance of all identification documents listed here.

When you arrive at your polling place, a voting official will verify that your name is on the registration list. Voters will be asked to present one valid form of identification. It can be any of the following: Virginia voter registration card; Virginia driver’s license; military ID; any Federal, Virginia state or local government issued ID; employer issued photo ID card; concealed handgun permit; valid Virginia student ID; current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter; Social Security card.

On the Ballot 2013

Check what is on your ballot at http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/

GOVERNOR

Terry R. McAuliffe (D) www.terryforall.com
Ken T. Cuccinelli (R) www.cuccinelli.com
Robert C. Sarvis (L) www.robertsarvis.com
Ralph S. Northam (D) www.northamforlg.com
E.W. Jackson (R) www.jacksonforlg.com

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mark R. Herring (D) www.herringforva.com
Mark D. Obenshain (R) www.markobenshain.com

FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF’S SPECIAL ELECTION

Stacey Ann Kincaid (D) www.staceykincaid.com
Bryan A. B.A. Wolfe ® http://www.wolferforsheriff.com/
Christopher F. DeCarlo (I) www.honestlyandethics.com
Robert A. Rivers (I)

SCHOOL BOARD REFERENDUM

Fairfax County voters will be asked to vote YES or NO on the $200 million school bond question in the general election. The schools plan to use the money to:

Build two new elementary schools, one in the Richmond Highway area and one in the Bailey’s area.
Help renovate 22 schools including 17 elementary schools, two middle schools (Thorpe and Rocky Run) and three high schools (Langley, Herndon and Oakton).
Buy land for the South West County High School
Enhance the capacity of Westbriar Elementary and South Lakes High School
Replace or improve infrastructure, such as roofs, major mechanical systems and parking lots.


Vote Now

From now until Saturday, Nov. 2, you can vote absentee in person for a variety of reasons, but you must sign a form affirming that you do qualify. Almost everyone with a job in Northern Virginia qualifies for one particular reason; however, your work plus commute time would be 11 hours or more between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Other reasons include planned travel, pregnancy, illness or disability, being a student out of area and more. Voters can also vote absentee by mail. It’s worth looking at the absentee ballot application online before going to vote absentee in person: http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/files/Forms/VoterForms/ABApplication.pdf.

In Fairfax County, you can vote at Fairfax County Governmental Center or any one of seven “satellite” voting locations.
Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035.
Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday: Oct. 14-17, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, VA 22035.
Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday: Beginning Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190
Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151
For more on voting absentee in Fairfax County, call 703-222-0776 or visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm.

Contact

Terry McAuliffe, 703-778-9410
Ken Cuccinelli, 703-778-9411
Bryan Wolfe, 703-778-9412
Stacey Ann Kincaid, 703-778-9410
Christopher DeCarlo, 703-778-9413
Robert Rivers, 703-778-9414

Column

It’s Going to Take Humility

By Frank Wolf

U.S. Representative (R-10)

In Luke 12:48 Jesus said, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

The Congress and the president have been entrusted with much, namely the responsibility to govern this country.

The American people rightly expect us, regardless of party affiliation, to come together, especially during times of crisis, and find ways to get things done. They are understandably fed up with this current dysfunction, and I am, too.

Each side thinks it is winning, but in reality, the country and the American people are losing. Senator Chaplain Barry Black says there’s a level of insanity involved in the current government shutdown. Asked what it would take to end the current impasse, the former Navy chaplain said, “It’s going to take humility.” Wise words.

Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” There is too much pride poisoning this debate.

The American people should be the winner, not one party or the other, not the administration or the Congress.

Short-sighted political victories aimed at capturing the latest headline in the 24 hour news cycle will not stand the test of time, nor will they be viewed well through the lens of history, especially if on our watch the trust that must exist between elected officials and the electorate is frayed beyond repair.

For those of us who think Obamacare is a disaster, its future will not be decided by shutting or opening of the government. The public debate surrounding Obamacare, which will undoubtedly be at the forefront heading into the mid-term elections, will play second fiddle until the government is once again operational.

It also bears mentioning, that while important, Obamacare must be placed in a larger context of the exploding national debt and deficit, and unsustainable spending and entitlement programs set against the backdrop of a public discourse bereft of civility.
The 20th anniversary of the founding of Westminster at Lake Ridge, a continuing care non-profit community, was held on Saturday, Oct. 5 near historic Occoquan. Nearly 400 people came out for the celebration.

Westminster at Lake Ridge Celebrates 20th Anniversary

RETURNING HONESTY, FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

WILL BRING NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW COMMAND STRUCTURE, NEW MANAGEMENT AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

WILL IMPROVE THE WAY SHERIFF’S DEPUTIES AND THE COMMUNITY RESPOND TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

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FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ARE READY FOR A NEW SHERIFF

BRYAN “B.A.” WOLFE

Howl-O-Ween Fun Fest
at Springfield Animal Hospital
October 19th, 2013 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Bring your friends, family and four-legged companions and join us for an afternoon of festive fun, including:

- Doggy Paw-Print Painting
- Pet Costume Contest
- Photo Booth
- Raffles for Rescues
- "Ask the Vets" Booth
- Cat Adoption
- Ghoulish Gourmet and Organic Pet Treats
- Pet Psychic Seminar with Diane Roadcap at 3:00pm

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2013

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Congressman Jim Moran’s
2013 Annual Women’s Issues Conference
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
George Washington Middle School
1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST:
Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut
Rosa DeLauro is a leader in Congress on issues affecting women, families and children, serving as the top Democrat on the influential Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

The conference will include workshops on major issues impacting women and information tables representing local and national non-profit organizations.

*Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; event will start at 10:00 a.m. to prevent a conflict with the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk.

For more information and to register, visit moran.house.gov or call 703-971-4700.

To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

NEWS

Rotary Clubs Join Hands to Help Others

Members of the Rotary Clubs of Fairfax and Burke combined forces to sell brats, French fries, hamburgers and beverages during the Burke Centre Festival that was held Sept. 7-8 at the Burke Centre Conservancy. The Rotarians were raising funds for service projects and were joined by Boy Scouts and adult leaders from Boy Scout Troop 698, Venture Crew 698, and members of the Fairfax High School Interact Club. The Boy Scouts operated an order and delivery service to the vendors working in other booths.

The spirit of volunteerism among the various groups was an exceptional example of how shared resources can make a big difference when help is needed. Together, this intergenerational workforce of 65 volunteers planned, stocked, staffed and cleaned up the concession booth that raised nearly $4,500. Those funds will be used for local and international Rotary service projects.

As another community service, all unsold food was donated to a local homeless shelter at the end of the festival.

Rotary Club of Burke President Chuck Steeper said, “This effort was a great example of how Rotarians build community spirit and combine the talents and skills of a variety of like-minded civic and service organizations to accomplish goals and Engage Rotary to Change Lives.” Members of the Rotary Club of Fairfax had voted to lend a hand when they learned that the Rotary Club of Burke was going to be short-handed for the festival. “It was wonderful to be part of the joint effort to support another Rotary Club in our district and to see the enthusiasm of the young people from Boy Scouts, Venture Crew and the Interact Club,” said Paula Kelley, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Fairfax.

The Rotary Club of Fairfax also supports a school and literacy project in Guatemala, local charities, an exchange student program, Fairfax High School college scholarships, Teacher of the Year Awards in the City of Fairfax, and many other projects to help those in need and to build positive relationships around the world. The Fairfax club has also made many contributions to the City of Fairfax, including the four-faced street clock in Kitty Pozer Park, the picnic shelter in Van Dyke Park, and the Rotary Gallery in the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center. The Rotary Club of Fairfax meets Mondays for lunch at the American Legion Hall, 3939 Oak Street in Fairfax from noon until 1:30. For more information about the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit the club’s website at www.fairfaxrotary.org. Or email the Rotary Club of Fairfax’s executive director, Iby N. Hollans, Jr., at ihollans@earthlink.net. The Rotary Club of Burke meets for breakfast on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 at Brion’s Grille. Visit the Burke club’s website at www.burkerotary.org. Or, contact the Burke Club at info@burkerotary.org.

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First Baptist Church–Hayfield…703-971-7077
First Baptist Church–Springfield…703-451-1800
Franconia Baptist Church…703-971-4475
South Run Baptist Church…703-455-4521
Westwood Baptist Church…703-451-5120

Bible
Immanuel Bible Church…703-941-4124
Episcopal
St. Christopher’s Episcopal…703-451-1088

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints…703-451-0631

Disciples of Christ
Springfield Christian Church…703-354-4994

Lutheran
Prince of Peace Lutheran…703-451-5665

St. John’s Lutheran Church…703-971-2210

Methodist
Messiah United Methodist Church…703-569-9862
Springfield United Methodist…703-451-2375
St. John’s United Methodist…703-256-6655
Sydenstricker United Methodist…703-451-8223

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Love International Church…703-354-3608
New Life Open Bible Church…703-922-7577
New World Unity Church…703-660-7925
International Calvary Church…703-912-1378

Presbyterian
Grace Presbyterian Church…703-451-2000
Harvester Presbyterian Church…703-455-7000
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church…703-451-5320

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church…703-451-4331
Immanuel Lutheran Church…703-549-0155

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Jehovah’s Witness Adat Reyim…703-971-5855
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St. Paul’s Lutheran Church…703-451-9199

Sydenstricker United Methodist…703-451-8223

To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418
20th Annual Goblin Gallop Is Oct. 27

Benefits families of children with cancer.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

J
ack-o-lanterns, pumpkin pie and colorful leaves signal that Halloween will soon be here. And that means it’s time for the Goblin Gallop. This year’s event is the 20th annual and it’s set for Sunday, Oct. 27, at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center.

And although it raises money for a serious cause, there’s always a party atmosphere. Many of the participants, plus those cheering them on, wear Halloween costumes; and afterward, there are refreshments and a costume contest.

“It’s more than just a 5K race,” said event organizer George Quadrino. “It’s a family-fun event with live music, a moonbounce and commemorative T-shirts.”

Rain or shine, the race begins and ends in front of Coastal Flats restaurant. The 1K fun run starts at 8:30 a.m.; the 5K race, at 9 a.m.; and the 5K walk, at 9:10 a.m. Entry fees through Oct. 24 are $28 for the 5K run, $20 for the 5K walk and $15 for the 1K fun run. From Oct. 25 on, those fees, respectively, are $30, $25 and $20.

Entrants should add $5 to each amount if they’d like a long-sleeved, rather than a t-shirt. Absolutely, are $30, $25 and $20.

Results will be posted that afternoon at goblingallop.org and Results.racedctiming.com.

The recipient families are referred by pediatric social workers at Inova Fairfax and Children’s hospitals, and the grants are given directly to these families. The recipient families are referred by pediatric social workers at Inova Fairfax and Children’s hospitals, and the grants are given directly to these families.

The Goblin Gallop is used for numerous, small grants to help childhood cancer victims and their families.

“We raised almost $40,000 last year and that helped a lot,” said Quadrino. “It allowed us to help about 260 families.”

Some 1,850 people participated in last year’s Goblin Gallop, and Quadrino expects between that number and 2,000 people this year’s Goblin Gallop, and Quadrino expects that number and 2,000 people to register their starting and finishing times.

The route is USATF-certified, and prizes valued at $150, $100 and $50 are awarded to the top three, overall, male and female finishers. Prizes are also given to the top three overall finishers in various age categories, including a masters group for those over 40. All children participating will receive runner’s medals inscribed with the words, “20th annual Goblin Gallop.”

All competitors will receive a free, commemorative, glow-in-the-dark T-shirt. Decorated with the words, “Goblin Gallop,” in orange, the shirts are purple and feature a scene of trick-or-treaters walking past a haunted house and a large, rising moon.

No dogs or headphones are allowed in both the running and walking events. A computer chip in the runners’ numbers will register their starting and finishing times.

The route is challenging, but runners like it because it’s fairly flat, with few hills and all right turns. Race D.C. Timing LLC will handle scoring and results, and the awards ceremony will be on the stage in front of Coastal Flats. Results will be posted that afternoon at goblingallop.org and Results.racedctiming.com.

After the race, the band Shaky Ground will perform classic rock on the Fairfax Corner stage, costumes will be judged and awarded prizes, and participants will enjoy hot dogs, breakfast bars, fruit, cookies and beverages.

Another highlight will be the Reptile Man, who brings snakes, a baby alligator and other reptiles for viewing by interested attendees. “He talks about them and explains what they eat,” said Quadrino. “Kids are absolutely fascinated.”

In addition, more than $3,000 in door prizes will be given away. Most are donated by local merchants and include Redskins tickets, restaurant meals and gift certificates at running stores. Glory Days Grill is the largest prize-contributor, donating $1,000 worth of goodies.

Because of the Goblin Gallop, the John Quadrino Foundation is able to make nearly 300 grants per year, totaling about $80,000. The recipient families are referred by pediatric social workers at Inova Fairfax and Children’s hospitals, and the grants are given directly to these families.

Because of the Goblin Gallop, the John Quadrino Foundation is able to make nearly 300 grants per year, totaling about $80,000. The recipient families are referred by pediatric social workers at Inova Fairfax and Children’s hospitals, and the grants are given directly to these families.

Because medical bills can be overwhelming, parents of seriously ill children often need help with rent, utility bills or car-repair costs. Often, one parent must quit a job to stay home and take care of the child. And a family with no prior financial problems suddenly finds itself in dire straits. That’s where the foundation comes in. Each year, for example, it awards grants for generators. They go to families with a child who relies on a lifesaving machine at home. And, said Quadrino, “If their power went out, it could be devastating.”

THE FOUNDATION buys wigs for children who’ve lost their hair to radiation/chemotherapy. And in the past few months, said Quadrino, “We outfitted 10-12 families with back-to-school clothes for their children.”

“We’ve also paid for a sibling’s child care so parents can visit their sick child in the hospital,” he continued. “My wife and I saw the need when our son was going through this, and he did, too—he’s our inspiration. He’d see kids like him who didn’t see their parents very much, except for Sunday afternoons.”

Worrying about their child’s health, while wondering how they’ll pay their rent or mortgage, is a “double whammy” for parents, said Quadrino. So his Foundation does all it can to help them.

“In the beginning, we were hoping to make three or four thousand dollars from the race, and it snowballed,” he said. “But the need is still there. We also take care of lots of unpaid utility bills. Every week, we turn on people’s lights and stop them from being turned off. We fill in where insurance doesn’t.”

Reflecting on the Goblin Gallop’s 20th anniversary, Quadrino called it “pretty unusual” for a race to last that long, but he’s glad it has. “We feel really good about it,” he said. There are a lot of volunteers involved and we appreciate our sponsors. This allows us to help more people and we’re excited about it.”

To donate to the organization, send checks payable to The John Quadrino Foundation to PO. Box 4614, Falls Church, VA 22044. Contributions are tax-deductible and may also be made via the Combined Federal Campaign by designating CFC No. 8931, or via the United Way by selecting No. 59426. ❖ ❖ ❖
Beware of Creatures in the Spooky Forest.

Chills and thrills await on the Clifton Haunted Trail.

By Bonnie Hobbs
Cultural View

Surely, the vampires, witches, goblins and ghostly things in wait for their victims along the Clifton Haunted Trail aren’t real—or are they? One thing’s for sure—they’re deadly serious about scaring people.

And that’s what they’ll be doing Saturday, Oct. 19, from 7-10 p.m., in the Town of Clifton’s Eight Acres Park. (Rain date is Oct. 27.) Tickets are $15, adults and $10, children under 12, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the trail entrance; there are no advance sales.

“This year’s event will include several new, terrifying things, including nonmammals, scary-cute characters and plenty of frightening lightening and spooky props,” said Jeff Harper of the Haunted Trail Committee. “This is not an event you want to miss.”

No flashlights are allowed in the park, and parents should accompany children along the trail since the high fear level is intense; it’s not recommended for those under 8. Because this event is so popular, adults might want to arrive early, as the trail tends to get crowded during the later hours.

A variety of local restaurants and beverages will be available. Free parking is available at the Clifton House Shops on Chapel Road, where halloweeners will take trail-goers to and from the park. For more information, see www.cliftonva.net/hauntedtrail.

However, children not wanting to go on the trail, plus guests waiting for teen to emerge from it, will be able to watch presents under the stars on a large screen as the event progresses. The Clifton House Shops are “Cloverfield” and “Poltergeist” under the park’s entrance. This year’s “spooktacular” will take place at the Clifton House Shops on Chapel Road; the event hall is at 106 Rolling Road, Clifton. Box office is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday.

Chairman John Powell oversees the whole event, with help from Harper, Enter Florin and Steve Binner.

Harper’s in charge of the performer, fragrance and decoration department, which means doing what and会议 means heading up the electricity, making sure there are enough power supplies to provide power in the woods. Mainly Clifton residents, the aroma crew are those who design their own costumes, and make their characters as realistic as possible.

This year, students from Centreville and Woodbridge high schools, plus Robinson Secondary, are doing scenarios, as well. And all will do their best to unleash the terrors of the night on unsuspecting visitors.

“We have kids shall scare you, startle you and creep you out,” said Harper. “We also have a dream of restorers walking back the trail in a reptile parade.

Last year, we were ranked by www.VirginiaHauntedHouses.com as one of the best haunted houses/trail events in Northern Virginia. It advocates for access to services, treatment and lifesaving medical treatment for those affected by mental illness. It is one of the best haunted houses in the county. We even join a training class to teach the actors in the skits how to scare people.

There’s a lot of comic relief, however, in Harper’s dancing skits scenarios, which started in 1998 and are doing it again, said Harper. “They’re doing a fun dance and we’re going to dance around to music.”

Some skits will involve fog to give off an ominous vibe; others will put on the electricity, making sure there is electricity, making sure there is

Some 200 Clifton-area volunteers put on the Clifton Haunted Trail show; some of them, including a group of children from the Chartiers Elementary school, are doing scenarios, in addition to the non-scary ones. “They’re deadly serious about scaring people,” said Harper.

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Wolverines quarterback throws 3 TDs, runs for 3.

THE SPARRTS’ ATTEMPTS schematically to try to hold down "… We had to do a couple things doesn’t compete," West Springfield use his blazing speed. Pierson-El, who is committed to Pierson-El, to receiver and kick returner, to focusing on containment rather the Wolverines' running back-quarterback looking statu-esque as he searched for an open receiver.

THE SPARRTS’ ATTEMPTS to contain Pierson-El proved futile, as he searched for an open Pierson-El completed eight of 16 plays. His 18-yard touchdown pass to CJ Burch on the game's first weather.


"What they’re trying to make him do is be a quarterback and he’s doing his best imitation right now," him do is be a quarterback and he's known he's not a classic trained player, gives the Wolverines a powerful presence in the ground game. "I knew from his rugby stuff that he can definitely carry the ball," Davis said. "… He adds another dimension. You’ve got a big guy to stop [and] you’ve got a little fast guy to stop. It's kind of tough."

WEST SPRINGFIELD trailed by 16 points early in the fourth quar-ter but came charging back with a pair of touchdowns during a 17-second span. Senior quarterback Jacob O’Connell scored on a 16-yard run with 8:14 remaining, cutting the West Potomac lead to 33-29. The Spartans plopped the ensuing kickoff and recovered the ball at the West Potomac 30-yard line. Two plays later, running back Adis Ojeda scored on an 8-yard run, cutting the Wolverines lead to 33-29 with 7:57 left. That was as close as West Springfield would get, however, as West Potomac added a pair of late touchdowns.

"It felt good," Pickett said about scoring 47 points. "But, [defen-sively], it’s a good win but we’ve got to play better. We were kind of slacking."

Glen Rushing and Michael James each had one interception for West Potomac. Ojeda carried 11 times for 94 yards and two touchdowns against West Potomac on Oct. 14. West Potomac senior linebacker Darien Pickett, who was an all-re-gion guard last year, carried 10 times for 38 hard-nosed yards. How would Pierson-El describe Pickett’s running style? "A nightmare," he said. "… He's tough to bring down, he’s strong, he’s quick for his size and people are not used to that."

At 5-foot-10 and 220 pounds, Pickett, who is a standout rugby player, gives the Wolverines a power-ful presence in the ground game. "I knew from his rugby stuff that he can definitely carry the ball," Davis said. "… He adds another dimension. You’ve got a big guy to stop [and] you’ve got a little fast guy to stop. It's kind of tough."

West Springfield running back Adis Ojeda scored two touchdowns against West Potomac on Oct. 14.

"That kid, you can’t stop him," Eldredge said. "… If we do [rush the passer], which we did a couple times, just to try to see, he’s right in the end zone. It’s a feast-or-famine kind of deal with that. What I needed us to do on offense was kind of keep him off the field and we just couldn’t do that well enough." Alexander scored a rushing touchdown for West Potomac. Senior linebacker Darien Pickett, who was an all-re-gion guard last year, carried 10 times for 38 hard-nosed yards. How would Pierson-El describe Pickett’s running style? "A nightmare," he said. "… He’s tough to bring down, he’s strong, he’s quick for his size and people are not used to that."

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Track Star Mentors Amputee Athletes at Prosthetic Center

Paralympic track and field champion Heinrich Popow visited Fairfax Friday, Sept. 27, to provide demonstrations and instruction to area above-knee amputees interested in returning to running since losing a leg.

Heinrich Popow visited Orthotic Prosthetic Center in Fairfax Friday, Sept. 27, to share with above-knee amputees interested in returning to running and becoming more active since the loss of their legs. The training session involved local amputees trying out a first of its kind sports prosthesis developed specifically to help make that goal a reality.

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AT&T intends to file an application to locate antennas at a water tower located at 2104 and 2108 Beryl Road, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission's Order. The public is invited to submit written comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on wireless communications. Comments should be submitted by October 4, 2013. The comments should be directed to: AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or installed adjacent to existing equipment at the base of the tank. Additional equipment will be installed adjacent to existing equipment at the base of the tank. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on wireless communications may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, 6715310 or c/o thesescarlett@atand.co.

LETTERS

The Choice Is Clear
To the Editor:
Within the next month, Virginians will head to the polls to elect another governor. The choice is clear. One candidate has no experience in public office and is a partisan operative, while Ken Cuccinelli has dedicated his life to public service by serving as a delegate and as the commonwealth’s highest legal authority, attorney general. Ken worked to improve K-12 public education, took a personal interest in releasing an innocent man from serving 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, and protected women on Virginia’s college campuses.

While Ken’s opponent has no record to run on, and requires on the job training, he does pride himself on being a businessman. Virginians don’t need a governor whose business plan is modeled after the failed GreenTech debacle.

Acknowledging his lack of a record, Ken’s opponent has resorted to personal attacks on Ken’s character. In a state where young women may be expelled from school if they take a TYLENOL or ADVIL, Ken’s support of parental notification and a waiting period for minors when considering an abortion is both responsible and refreshing. Further, because Ken cares about the health and safety of all women, he has followed the Virginia Board of Health’s recommendation to require women’s health care clinicians to maintain the same health and safety standards as other outpatient surgical hospitals. While people may disagree on women’s issues, Ken has served and protected all the citizens of Virginia in his role as attorney general. We need this same common sense approach in our next governor.

Finally, with the recent shutdown in Washington, we need a governor who can reach across party lines and govern. The partisan attacks and intolerant rhetoric from Ken’s opponent leaves little doubt that he is incapable of being bipartisan. Ken has a record of working with both Republicans and Democrats, and I expect he will continue conducting himself in this same manner when he is elected governor.

Alice Butler-Short
Lorton

Promoting “East Sea”

From Page 5
Only through enacting reforms based on the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles recommendations will we ever solve the drivers of our deficits. We have put these tough, but important, reforms off for far too long.

To my colleagues in the Congress and to President Obama who think they are “winning” at this particular moment, we would do well to remember the words of Napoleon Bonaparte in speaking of the changing nature of public opinion: “The crowd which follows me with adulation would run with the same eagerness were I marching to the Guillotine.”

I return again to the sentiments of scripture: We have been given a great trust, and it is demanded of us to come together to solve these problems.

It is time to show some humility. It is time to govern.

Let’s get the government back open, ensure we don’t default on our debt and then commit ourselves to curbing unsustainable entitlement spending.

Sensitive is that we already teach students about the controversy, so our textbooks ought to reflect that fact,” Marsden said.

“All they are looking for is a position of respect.”

Del. Tim Hugo (D-40) announced he is sponsoring a similar bill in the House this year.

“It is not right that their position on this issue be ignored,” said Hugo in a statement.

“It is not right that so many of our Korean-American students are taught that there is only one name for this body of water, when their culture and history say otherwise.”

Kim said his group’s final goal is to include “the East Sea” in all textbooks used at elementary, junior high and high schools in 50 states by March 2017, when the International Hydrographic Organization holds a meeting to discuss Seoul’s request for the concurrent use in formal international maps.

“In keeping with America’s high standard of education, our children would benefit from learning geography that includes current geo-political information,” Kim said.
Madeira School Interns ‘Furloughed’ Due to Government Shutdown

By Marilyn Campbell

Madeira School Interns ‘Furloughed’ at Madeira. “Group one will research Smith, associate director of communications and students are now studying the government shutdown. However, because of the government shutdown, many of Madeira’s high school juniors are unable to complete their congressional internships. So school officials restructured the program and students are now studying the government shutdown.

“The juniors affected by the shutdown are divided into two groups,” said Ashley Smith, associate director of communications at Madeira. “Group one will research affected monuments, government buildings and federal lands around D.C., while group two will research the more personal impact on tourists, vendors or ‘nonessential’ employees. After some prep in the morning, girls will travel down to the Hill to research and collect content in the form of interviews, photos [and] videos.” The revised internship plan was created by the co-curriculum department in conjunction with other faculty and staff members. The goal is to help the students gain many of the skills they would have acquired from internships in congressional offices. School officials hope the students’ research will help them understand the scope of the government shutdown. “The idea behind the project was to make the shutdown come alive for the girls.”

― Andre Withers, The Madeira School

Local students turn lost internship into a learning experience.

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Springfield Connection ◆ October 17-23, 2013 ◆ 17
Local educators offer advice on selecting the right independent school for your child.

By Marilyn Campbell

Once upon a time, there were 12 wonderful family dogs who loved their owner and thought they’d live happily ever after. Then came the day their owner grew old, he was taken away and they were left homeless. They all loved each other but their happy home was split apart. All the companions went separate ways and are now looking for new loved ones. They are all terrific with other dogs, great with cats and each and every one has a loving personality. Heather played an important part in the family. She is the mother dog... the oldest at 6 years, the wisest, the sweetest and with her blond fur and expressive eyes by far the prettiest. She needs your love. Come and meet the best of the best.

Choosing a Private School

Martina Soltes was sitting in an Arlington coffee shop recently pouring through catalogs and application packets from some of the area’s most elite independent schools. Her stack of brochures was almost as high as her extra-large latte.

“There are so many options,” said Soltes, who is a mother of twins. “And the application fees are outrageously expensive. I can’t apply to all of them.”

As the independent school application process gets underway, many parents are struggling to find the best fit for their child. Author and education consultant Ann Dolin, president of Educational Connections Inc., in Fairfax, and Bethesda, Md., says when choosing a school, key factors to consider include the school’s location, single-sex versus co-ed, the level of academic rigor, methods of instruction, athletics and a child’s chance of acceptance. Dolin recommends school visits, tours and open houses as a way to start narrowing down your choices.

“You’ll want to consider certain factors,” said Dolin. “Is the school close by or logistically feasible? Are you looking for all-out rigor and accelerated academics or would your child benefit more from a balanced, less intensive approach? Are sports important to your child? If so, this factor may make a school more or less attractive. Is the school known to be highly competitive, meaning that only a small percentage of students gain acceptance each year? Is the school looking for very high test scores and top grades? These are the schools that might be hard to get into. Be sure your list contains some of these ‘reach’ schools, but also others that may provide a better chance of acceptance.”

LOCAL ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS agree that attending open houses and scheduling school visits are effective ways to start the application process. “An admission open house is a great venue to get an overview of a school’s environment, sense of community, and the approach to teaching and learning,” said Julie Jameson, director of admission at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Potomac, Md. “Opportunities to get to know the school are offered through tours, speaking with current students and parents, meeting faculty and administrators, and learning more about curriculum, activities and student life.”

Charlotte Nelsen, director of admission and financial aid for The Potomac School in McLean, suggests visiting a school during the day when classes are in session. “Visiting campus gives families a chance to see classes in action, sense the level of student engagement and picture their child at the school,” she said.

“Observing classes and teacher-student interactions will give families a feel for the culture of the school,” said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment at Norwood School in Bethesda. “How is the learning environment set up? How do teacher and students interact? Are students working independently or collaboratively? Are they happy and engaged? Do the walls and the sounds in the hallway sing to you?”

Julie Lewis, director of admissions and financial aid at Alexandria Country Day School in Alexandria, said, “Being in the hallways and seeing how students and teachers interact with one another gives a prospective family a feel for the school and its culture that cannot be found on a website.”

Richard S. Moss, director of admissions at The Height School in Potomac, Md., says that an open house offers families an opportunity to look into the “heart and soul of a school” and to get a sense of a
Selecting Independent School

FROM PAGE 18

school’s true environment. “On a superficial level, a good school ought to present an organized and welcoming open house, but a discerning parent and student will look beyond the external trappings to discern what values and principles an institution holds dear and how it implements those principles,” said Moss. “If the principles line up with those of family, and the school does a good job of implementing them, it could be a good fit.”

Open houses, said Mulligan, offer a different experience than a school tour. “[They] are wonderful opportunities to really delve into curricular discussions with faculty,” she said. “Because open houses typically happen during non-school hours, teachers and administrators are available for conversation. Current students and parents are also usually in attendance, so if hearing about the school experience from that perspective is important to you, then an open house would be a worthwhile activity.”

Mulligan said she believes it’s important to experience a school in more than one setting. It “allows for a deeper understanding of how a school’s mission comes alive.” Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid for The Madeira School, in McLean, also suggests that prospective families visit frequently and spend time on campus outside of scheduled tours and open houses. “Come often,” she said. “We all have sporting events, announced on our website. You should stop by a game sometime. School plays and concerts are my favorite way to learn about a school. These events often have large numbers of parents and students from the school, and it is a wonderful way to see the culture of the school in one place.”

DURING THE VISIT or open house, parents and prospective students should consider the school’s environment and ask themselves several questions, said Katherine Carbo, director of Lower School admission at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria: “How comfortable do I feel in this environment? Do the faculty appear passionate and enthusiastic about teaching? Are the students focused and engaged? What is the overall philosophy of the school? Is the approach traditional or progressive?”

Classroom size and structure are other factors to note. “Keep your eyes peeled for the number of children in the classroom, and try to get a feel for their daily schedule,” she said. “Could you imagine your child working and playing with the students and teachers you see? Visiting a school provides parents with one snapshot of the community. Learning more about that community takes time.”

Carbo also suggests visiting several schools. “Most of the information you collect through reading and conversations will be reliable,” she said. “But the right match for your child may be vastly different than your neighbor’s child or coworker’s child. This is why touring different schools is important.”

Start now by calling or emailing a school’s admission office to request a tour, said Carbo. “When should you get started?” she asks. “That really depends on what program you are seeking out. Most admission seasons begin in October, and parents will tour in the fall or winter, a year before they hope their child will start school.”

The most important guide, say experts, are a parent’s instincts. “Each school has its own distinct feel,” Carbo said. “It is up to you to visit and see what seems to be a good fit for your family.”

Dolin said, “Parents’ intuition is a good guide, but you have to balance it with the needs of your child.”
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